

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A telephone number searching system comprising:
 - a phone;
 - a telephone number database to store multiple predetermined telephone numbers;
 - a web server connected to said telephone number database;
 - an information terminal having a web browser, selectively connected to said web server, to submit a search request to receive a telephone number service and searching the predetermined telephone numbers in said telephone number database through said web server, and to display at least one searched for telephone number among the predetermined telephone numbers in accordance with the search request; and
 - a telephone plug-in automatically dialing one telephone number selected by a user among the at least one displayed telephone number to set up a communication channel through said phone.
2. The telephone number searching system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a personal computer which includes the information terminal having the web browser, wherein the phone is a telephone.
3. The telephone number searching system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a web phone which includes the information terminal having the web browser and the phone.
4. The telephone number searching system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a hand-held phone which includes the information terminal having the web browser and the phone.

1 5. The telephone number searching system as claimed in claim 1, wherein
2 the information terminal having the web browser connects to said web server to
3 submit the search using a telephone line, and stops the connection in response to the
4 telephone plug-in being automatically dialing the one telephone number, and said
5 telephone plug-in automatically dials the one telephone number using the telephone
6 line.

1 6. The telephone number searching system as claimed in claim 5, wherein
2 the information terminal having the web browser reestablishes the connection to said
3 web server using the telephone line subsequent to the automatic dialing of said
4 telephone plug-in, to enable the user to select another one of the at least one
5 displayed telephone number.

1 7. The telephone number searching system as claimed in claim 1, wherein
2 the information terminal having the web browser connects to said web server to
3 submit the search using a first telephone line, and said telephone plug-in
4 automatically dials the one telephone number using a second telephone line.

1 8. A telephone number searching method supporting automatic dialing,
2 comprising the steps of:
3 (a) connecting a web browser to a web server;
4 (b) inputting a search term to be searched to the web server;
5 (c) searching a telephone number database in which a plurality of telephone
6 numbers are associated with corresponding search terms with the web server using
7 the input search term, and displaying each one of the plurality of telephone numbers
8 which correspond to the input search term; and
9 (d) selecting one telephone number from each telephone number displayed in
10 said step (c) and operating a telephone plug-in to dial the selected one telephone
11 number automatically.

1 9. The method as claimed in claim 8, said step (d) comprises the step of
2 operating the telephone plug-in to dial the selected one telephone number
3 automatically if the selected one telephone number is described by a predetermined
4 tag.

1 10. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the predetermined tag is
2 defined as "<dialto> telephone number </dialto>".

1 11. The telephone number searching system as claimed in claim 8, wherein
2 said step (c) comprises the steps of:
3 transferring each of the plurality of telephone numbers and the corresponding
4 search terms by the web server to the web browser as a hypertext markup language
5 (HTML) document;
6 displaying the HTML document.

1 12. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein:
2 said step (a) comprises the step of connecting the web browser to the web
3 server using a telephone line; and
4 said step (d) comprising the step of disconnecting the web browser from the
5 web server over the telephone line, and operating the telephone plug-in to dial the
6 selected one telephone number automatically over the telephone line.

1 13. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein:
2 said step (a) comprises the step of connecting the web browser to the web
3 server using a first telephone line; and
4 said step (d) comprising the step of operating the telephone plug-in to dial the
5 selected one telephone number automatically over a second telephone line.

1 14. A telephone number searching method, comprising the steps of:
2 (a) connecting a web browser to a web server which is connected to a
3 telephone database having search terms and corresponding telephone numbers;
4 (b) entering at least one search term by a user to the web browser;
5 (c) searching the telephone database for the at least one search term, and
6 displaying each telephone number corresponding to the at least one search term; and
7 (d) selecting one of the each telephone number by the user, and automatically
8 dialing the selected one telephone number if the selected one telephone number is
9 defined by a link syntax for executing the automatic dialing.

1 15. The telephone number searching method as claimed in claim 14,
2 wherein said step (d) comprises the steps of:
3 determining whether the selected one telephone number is defined by the link
4 syntax for executing the automatic dialing; and
5 operating a telephone plug-in to execute the automatic dialing if the selected
6 one telephone number is defined by the link syntax.

1 16. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein:
2 said step (a) comprises the step of connecting the web browser to the web
3 server using a telephone line; and
4 said step (d) comprising the step of disconnecting the web browser from the
5 web server over the telephone line, and operating the telephone plug-in to dial the
6 selected one telephone number automatically over the telephone line.

1 17. The method as claimed in claim 14, further comprising the step (e) of
2 reestablishing the connection between the web browser and the web server
3 subsequent to the automatic dialing of the selected one telephone number, to enable
4 the user to select another one of the telephone numbers corresponding to the at least
5 one search term.

1 18. The method as claimed in claim 16, further comprising the step (e) of
2 reestablishing the connection between the web browser and the web server
3 subsequent to the automatic dialing of the selected one telephone number, to enable
4 the user to select another one of the telephone numbers corresponding to the at least
5 one search term.

1 19. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein:
2 said step (a) comprises the step of connecting the web browser to the web
3 server using a first telephone line; and
4 said step (d) comprising the step of operating the telephone plug-in to dial the
5 selected one telephone number automatically over a second telephone line.

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